

Remarks on Sheep and the price of Wool.

W. H. Landrum says: This is a broad subject and I shall confine my remarks to a few leading points, merely to attract the attention of breeders to facts which have been overlooked by most of them. The great consideration is: What regulates the value of wool? It is valuable because it has entered largely into the manufacture of goods for wearing apparel, and in proportion to the value of the class of goods made from the wool we find its market value. Hence we must observe the styles of goods and the material necessary to make them in order to place an estimate on wool or other fiber. There was a time when the most costly goods were made from fine merino or Saxon wool, while the styles of goods made from long, coarse wool were very low. In 1824 fine wool sold for sixty cents per pound, and long wool for thirty-one cents. Fashions gradually changed, and manufacturers changed to supply the demand. In 1829 there was a grand improvement made in combining machinery in England, and every year has added some improvement to machinery and invented some new fabric, having a constant tendency to increase the demand for long, coarse wool, of even, strong fiber, until September, 1862, long combing reaching par with the finest wools of Michigan and New York, each of which was 60 cents per pound since that date. Long combing has run from ten to twenty cents per pound premium over the fine clothing wools. Now, we clearly understand that it is the sale of fabric made from the wool that regulates the value of the wool, and while grease, gum and dirt combined with the extraneous matter, must first be taken out of the wool and cast off into the brook, and cannot enter into fabric, why seek that quality in a sheep merely to be able to say: "My sheep sheared thirty pounds," when the manufacturer, actually worked seven and one-half pounds and perhaps but seven pounds of that weight into fabric, and therefore would have given the same money for seven lbs. of clean wool, and saved his chemicals, consumed in cleaning the excess of impurities? While I do not accuse those breeders who run their sheep to exorbitant matter, in order to get what they call a heavy fleece, of being dishonest men, I do say the practice is dishonest on its face, and in every instance reflects upon the breeder. Excessive matter is produced at a disproportionate tax on the constitution and upon the mutton qualities. While a hardy, well-constituted sheep will live fourteen years, Hammond of Vermont, has reduced the life of his prize Merinos to three years' average. They also impart less milk and are poor breeders, never raising more than 80 per cent. of lambs, while a good, coarse sheep will raise from 130 to 150 per cent. of increase. It is what you get for your productions that creates your wealth. The manufacturer only pays for the amount of fiber he gets, calculating how many yards of cloth it will make, what that goods will be worth, and what it will cost to make it. Therefore I say to our sheep-breeders, strive not to produce the greatest gross weight, but the greatest amount of clean wool, with an eye single to what the manufacturer can pay for it. It is a gross presumption to suppose that a manufacturer can pay for dirt and other impurities which are carried away in the brook. By pursuing such a course his business would soon be ruined. The cleaner we breed our wool the more profit there is in the business. We must consider that eight pounds is the largest Merino fleece, when cleansed, ever produced on one sheep in twelve months' growth, and three pounds is common on good sheep. Cotswolds have sheared 154 pounds of washed wool. All the overplus, be it great or small, is worthless matter. Then why not look to the constitution and quality of wool, instead of gross weight? As a rule, at this date, wool is valued by its length of staple and condition as to loss in cleansing. Where there is kemp in wool it detracts from its value. The fiber, to be perfect, must be even and strong, particularly if over three inches long. Anything over three inches is considered combing wool, and must be free from joints or second growth.

Truths lie scattered broadcast through the ages, waiting eyes to see them.

What is a Grange?

The Rural World gives the most correct idea of a Grange and its objects in the language which we quote as follows: A grange is an organization of farmers. It has for its object improvement. It is designed to elevate and enlighten the farmer. It would better qualify him for his God-given profession. It aims to bring about these objects by association. It unites those of the same calling into one grand brotherhood for the protection of all. It establishes in every neighborhood a lecture room—which is the Grange itself—in which the most important truths are unfolded. It disseminates valuable information, that all may be benefited. It collects as well as disseminates. It receives knowledge, as well as dispenses it. It is an intellectual institution. It calls for exercise on the mind. It brings mind in contact with mind, and by the contact, other minds are illuminated by the friction. It draws out latent talent. It makes active and tangible what has been before dormant and unseen. It shows the importance of cultivating brains as well as soil. It demonstrates the fact that as rich harvests are developed by brain culture as soil culture—that a great crop of weeds has grown up and smothered out the useful plants by the neglect of brain culture. The Grange is a social institution. It makes each feel an interest in all, and all in each. It heals up the wounds of the unfortunate. It administers comfort to the sick and alleviates the sufferings of the distressed. It is a husband to the widow and a father to the fatherless. It makes every neighborhood one kind, affectionate family. It is a financial institution. It seeks to obtain for its members the highest price for their products. It looks to the good of all. It learns how and when the best prices are obtained. It cuts the Gordon knot which has bound the farmer to the middle man, who has absorbed the chief profits of his labor. It throws its protecting arms over and around all, and would make them more independent. A good garden will contribute so much toward the support of a family, and its humanizing influences are so great, that every man should study and strive to make the most of the limited piece of ground thus appropriated. More than this, the first lessons in farming are always to be learned in the garden, for there are to be seen what are the most favorable conditions for the growth of plants, and how they are to be treated during the various stages of maturity. Thus a garden may be called the farmers' academy, the farm, the college. Go where you may, over the whole land, it will be found universally true that the best farmer has the best garden, and that when the garden is poor the farmer is poor.—Journal of Education.

"Advertising is the Oil which wise men put in their lamps." Modern Prov.

L. P. FISHER, ADVERTISING AGENT. ROOMS 20 AND 21, Merchants' Exchange, California Street, San Francisco. Solicits Advertisements and Subscriptions for the LAFAYETTE COURIER and for papers published in California, Oregon and Nevada; Washington, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Arizona, and adjacent Territories; Sandwich Islands, the British Possessions, China; New Zealand and the Australian Colonies; Mexico, Porto Rico, Panama, Yabarisio and Japan; the Atlantic States and Europe.

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